

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

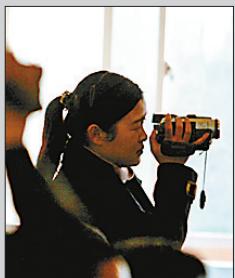
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Detectives Stuck on the Edge of Law

In spite of demand, China's legal system has no space for private eyes. **Page 4**



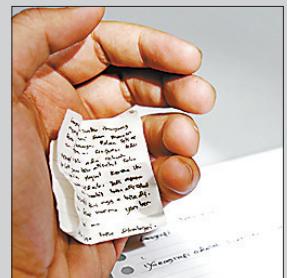
Ali's Quest for a Media Empire

Its newest media investment shows Ali is aiming for the TV. **Page 5**



Academic Integrity a Missed Lesson

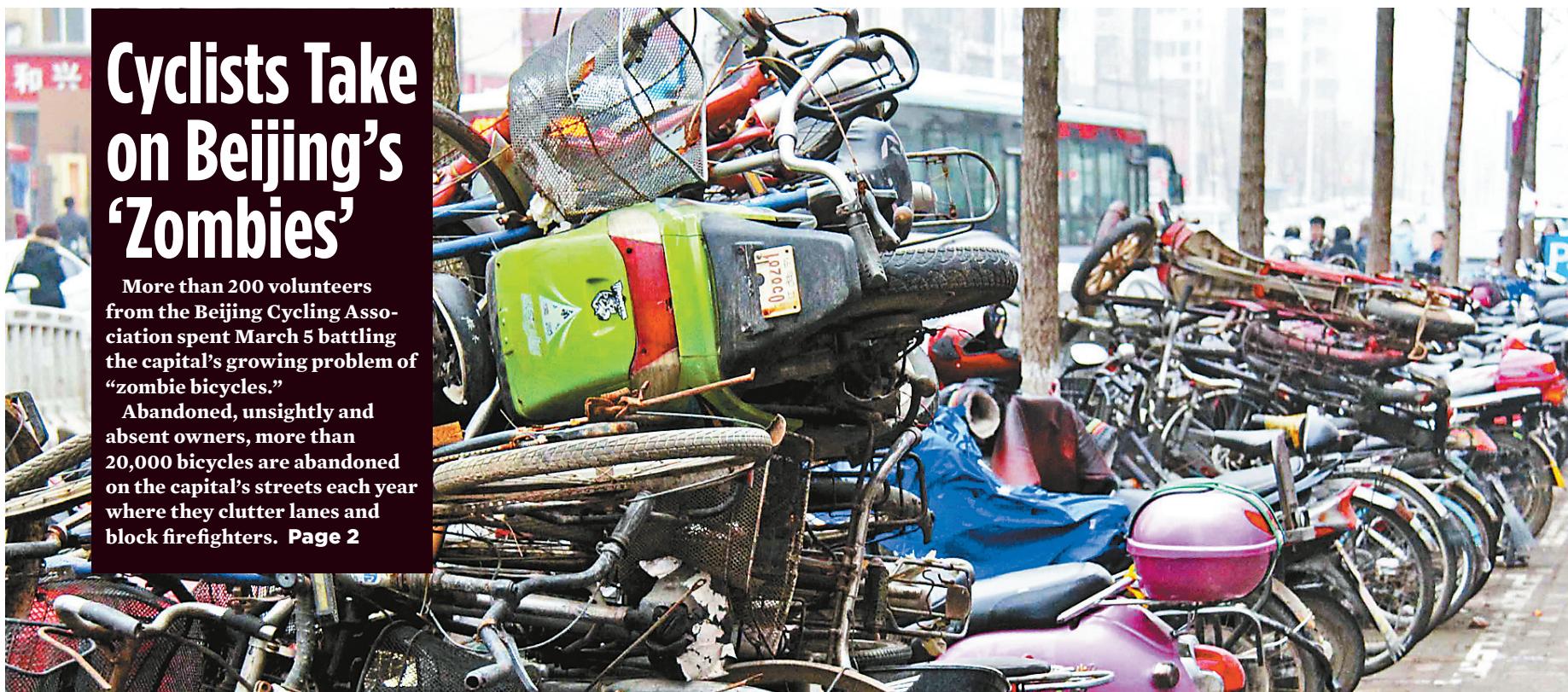
The plagiarist Yu Yanru is a scapegoat for higher education's shame. **Page 6**



Cyclists Take on Beijing's 'Zombies'

More than 200 volunteers from the Beijing Cycling Association spent March 5 battling the capital's growing problem of "zombie bicycles."

Abandoned, unsightly and absent owners, more than 20,000 bicycles are abandoned on the capital's streets each year where they clutter lanes and block firefighters. **Page 2**



Web Lottery Sales Banned, Again

BY SHU PENGQIAN

Legal gambling fans are bemoaning the loss of online lottery ticket sales since a temporary ban on the practice came into effect this week.

The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil Affairs and General Administration of Sports issued two announcements demanding a halt on all online lottery ticket sales.

They also ordered province administrators to "engage in self-inspection and correct mistakes found during their self-examination."

While puzzling, the statement seems aimed at bringing order to the online sale of lottery tickets rather than ban-

ning the practice outright.

The announcement halted business for hundreds of Chinese lottery websites. Even 500.com, the first state-approved lottery website, has been forced to suspend its ticket sales. The company's share price fell 40 percent with the announcement of the ban.

Decreased ticket sales have hit provincial lotteries especially hard.

It's not first time the government has had to step in and interfere in the online lottery business.

It halted online lottery ticket sales in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Its successive regulations have done little to bring

order to the market, which recorded 382.3 billion yuan in ticket sales last year, according to public statistics.

More than 85 billion yuan of those tickets were sold online through 300 lottery websites.

But those online ticket sales have opened the door to many cases of embezzlement and the mass diversion of public welfare funds.

Even if the Chinese lottery administration is striving to adjust the industry, it's hard to say whether it can succeed.

The announcements gave no indication of how long authorities expect the current ban to last. ■

CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,349.32	▲ 58.42 (1.78%)	+3.55%

SZSE (Shenzhen)

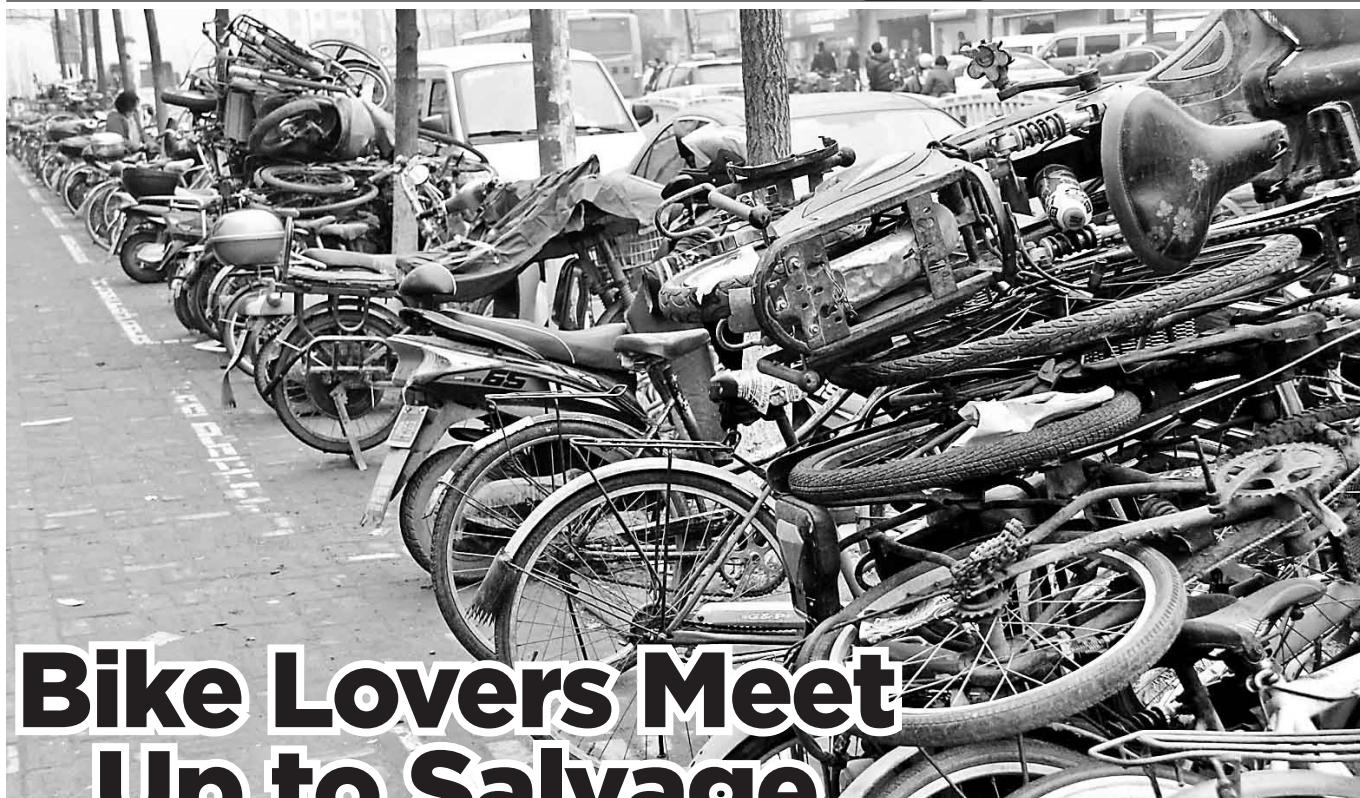
Close	Change	YTD
11,635.59	▲ 110.50 (0.96%)	+5.64%

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
23,797.96	▲ 79.66 (0.34%)	+1.24%

Accurate to market close on March 12, 2015





CFP Photos

Bike Lovers Meet Up to Salvage ‘Zombie’ Rides

BY DIAO DIAO

More than 200 volunteers in the Beijing Cycling Association took to the streets on March 5 to repair bicycles in 24 communities and rescue “zombie bicycles” in Fengtai District’s Cuilin community.

Zombie bicycles refer to two-wheelers that have been abandoned in public spaces where they pose a danger to firefighters, encroach on narrow historic lanes and clutter the environment. All are covered in grime and few have an identifiable owner.

Together with nearby residents, the volunteers cut the bicycles loose and worked to repair each or salvage it for usable parts.

“We divided the community into 20 areas. We collected more than 10 zombie bicycles from each,” the volunteers said.

Liu Jianxue, secretary of Cuilin’s community management, said zombie bicycles have been an increasing headache for his office, which logged numerous complaints about bicycles being randomly left or chained

in front of community buildings in the weeks before Spring Festival.

There were more than 200 bicycles blocking passages inside buildings or left under first floor windows throughout Cuilin, Liu said.

“We thought about dealing with these deserted bicycles earlier this year, but we weren’t sure if they had any owners,” Liu said. “We used to round them up and move them to the garage, but residents called to complain.”

Cuilin community is just one example.

A survey by the Beijing Cycling Association found that most of the city’s million bicycles sit unused. More than 20,000 bicycles are deserted each year.

The director of the Beijing Cycling Association who gave his surname as Tian said bicycles are gradually being replaced by motorcycles and electric bicycles. “Beijing’s thermal extremes also damage a lot of bicycles, Tian said. “Most bikes can only stay in good condi-

tion for six months without some work.”

Communities are not the only places troubled by zombie bicycles.

Liang Lijun at Tsinghua University said thousands of unwanted bicycles are abandoned on campus after graduation. The school’s fleet of zombie bicycles occupies more than 1,000 square meters of campus space.

Some communities and universities have taken action to clear out the zombies.

Yixin community in Shunyi District started to repair zombie bicycles and repurpose them for short-distance public transportation. Shaojiu community in Donghuamen reuses its zombie bicycles and paints them with its community logo.

Last year, many Peking University graduates donated their bicycles to the campus for freshmen incoming.

Lawyer Hu Siyu said zombie bicycles are both hard to repair and hard to sell at a reasonable price. To prevent their numbers from growing, police and chengguan should come up with regulations to discourage abandonment.

March 5 is recognized as Lei Feng Day, a day for engaging in public works and community action. ■

Amazon Opens Flagship Store at Tmall

BY LYNNE WANG

Amazon seems determined to gain place in China – even if it means bringing its flagship marketplace to a rival platform.

The online retailer opened a verified store on Alibaba’s Tmall on March 5. The influential e-commerce site is China’s largest and Amazon’s strongest competitor in the domestic market.

The new store is intended for direct procurement and offers consumers a one-stop location for buying food, women shoes, toys and kitchenware online.

The juxtaposition of the Amazon arrow and the Aliwangwang avatar is extremely



Photo by advangent.com

odd, and many commenters said they did not understand what Amazon was trying to do.

Rumors of Amazon China’s plan to open a flagship store on Tmall have circulated since 2013. Analysys International’s survey in 2012 found that Tmall was the top marketplace with a market share of 44 percent, followed by JD with 16 percent and Yixun with nearly 4 percent.

Amazon China came in fifth with only 2.3 percent of the emerging market.

In the following two years, Amazon China’s sales plummeted to 1.4 percent, falling behind all but the weakest domestic e-commerce start-ups, according to iResearch.

EDITOR: DIAO DIAO ■ DESIGNER: ZHAO YAN

City’s Emergency Rooms to Admit All

BY DIAO DIAO

Beijing Tongren Hospital administrators left the 37-year-old Wang Jianmin to die on the street when he was unable to pay in advance for treatment. Wang’s tragic death in 2005 has been in the news once again thanks to a new law that requires Beijing’s emergency rooms to admit anyone.

All hospitals and healthcare organizations, regardless of size, are required to follow the new regulations.

To support treatment, the government is preparing an emergency assistance fund that will be used to help critically injured patients to cover their expenses. The fund will be supplied by charitable donations and government cash infusions and managed by the Bureau of Finance.

The emergency assistance fund will be included as an item in the municipal government’s budget from 2016.

The National Bureau of Health and Family Planning defines “critically injured patients” as those who have a heart rate of 50 times per minute or more than 130 times, those who are in a coma and those suffering from cardiac arrest, respiratory failure or acute poisoning.

For hospitals with especially active emergency rooms, the fund will be disbursed at the start of each year to settle accounts.

Patients can apply for the fund’s support through personal injury insurance or their own national medical insurance.

But insiders said the fund may not live up to the government’s expectations. Many patients in need of support are not clearly identified as emergency cases. Additionally, the government has not clearly specified what kind of time window a patient has to apply for support from the fund. ■

急诊处置室
TREATMENT ROOM



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MI 0.9 Dr. Moroder ecofetale.com

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Surface 1
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SRI 3D 5
4D Real Time



4D Ultrasounds Feed Grey Market in Fetal Photography

BY YANG XIN

The use of 4D ultrasounds to shoot pre-natal video is becoming increasingly popular with expecting parents, but doctors say the tool opens the door to a world of legal troubles and puts babies at an increased risk of injury.

"4D" color ultrasonic scanners were developed to inspect at-risk babies for malformations. They offer much clearer images than tra-

tional B ultrasound. In China, that makes them the choice tool of the country's underground gender identification and fetus photography trade.

Yao Li, an expectant mother in Beijing, paid 1,280 yuan to a private clinic to have a 15-minute video recorded using the 4D ultrasound — more than five times the cost of a normal B ultrasound at a public hos-

pital. As a keepsake, she said the 4D ultrasound video was worth the cost.

Many parents in first-tier cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are more than willing to pay for such a keepsake. At Guangzhou's private hospitals, 4D ultrasound appointments are in short supply throughout the year. In Beijing, many pre-natal photography centers offer door-to-door service for mothers.

But the new ultrasound poses a serious health risk for babies.

Even a normal B ultrasound, which takes less than 10 minutes, can be harmful for a fetus. A 4D color ultrasound exam can drag on for an hour or more.

A foreign doctor at Peking University's Health Science Center surnamed Rossolimo said prolonged exposure to ultrasound waves can cause spots on the body to heat up, potentially damaging the fetus.

With 16 million babies born each year and 4D ultrasound exams priced around 1,000 yuan, that could mean 16 billion yuan each year are headed to a grey market business.

The US Food and Drug Administration said the business value created by pleasing customers has far surpassed the value of medical diagnosis.

China's Ministry of Health has released regulations aimed to rein in health institutions, but commercial institutions specializing in fetus photography can easily evade the law by operating under the guise of a photography company.

Fetus gender identification is another major use of 4D ultrasound technology that is even more difficult to root out.

The Chinese Maternal and Infant Health Care Law prohibits ultrasound operators from identifying the gender of a fetus during ultrasound tests. But advertisements that hint at the possibility of revealing a baby's genders are a common sight at any private hospital. ■

Domestic Violence Law Criticized for Favoring Wives

BY LI RUIQI

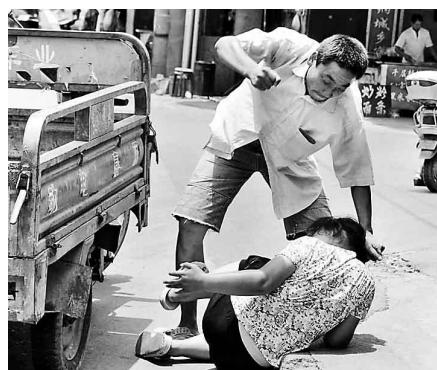


Photo by Wikipedia & m4.cn

The Supreme Court and Procuratorate called for a suspension of the death penalty when domestic violence escalates into killing on March 4. Men and women who kill their spouses in reaction to domestic violence would be charged with "excessive defense" instead of homicide.

Domestic violence occurs in nearly a quarter of all Chinese families according to data from 2014, the court said. Moreover, 10 percent of the homicides in 2014 were the result of domestic violence.

"Many women pushed to the brink of insanity by domestic violence see no alternative other than to kill their husbands," said Shang Shaohua, a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress.

Women are the victims in 90 percent of China's domestic violence, but few seek legal aid due to traditional views that shame anyone who airs a family's internal problems. The Women's Federation offers counseling and arbitration support, but mediation is rarely enough to solve the problem.

"Women need a real law to protect them from domestic violence," said Yang Hui-zhen, a delegate to the National Party Congress. The Women's Federation also backed

the court's decision, saying it encourages women to protect themselves instead of remaining silent and miserable.

While a reduced charge is a step in the right direction, many criticized the court for being too partial to victims of domestic violence.

Netizens argued that the life of each side is worthy of respect, and that beating an abuser to death should not be tolerated when the perpetrator also has to bear criminal responsibility.

The conflict between law and culture is another problem for the courts.

In most parts of China, it is considered acceptable for a husband to batter his wife if she is caught cheating. Laws that award special protection to the wife in such a case may face intense opposition: especially in the countryside.

Beijing police began a study of cases of family violence on Women's Day 2015.

The local *Beijing News* criticized any legislation that would interfere too much in family's disputes. "It's hard to conduct judicial arbitration between couples as every family has its own way to solve its inner conflicts," the paper said. ■

THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE
BY SU DERUI

Trucker Arrested for Poking Girls in the Posterior

A 26-year-old trucker surnamed Geng was arrested this week and charged with assault for poking young girls in the butt with an awl.

Haidian police said the man began prowling the streets for girls to stab after completing a delivery on the first day of the Lunar New Year. After eliciting a yelp from his victim, he fled the scene.

Police found Geng using surveillance footage of several incidents. He reportedly confessed to the attacks and said he previously carried out another 10 pokings around the city.

(Tencent)

Changchun Cat Lady Seeks Aid for 80 Strays

For the past six years, Wang Shuhua, 83, has been using her pension to pay for food and vaccinations for her more than 80 stray cats.

But her increasingly poor health is forcing her to find another person to care for the cats.

She is reaching out to interested people or organizations to help take in some of the cats. Interested parties can call 0431-96618 to inquire about adoption.

(Tencent)

Father's Fireworks Send Son into Epileptic Fit

Xiaobing sustained a head injury when he was one year old that left him frightened of loud noises, insects and kittens. In order to toughen the boy up, his father bought him a box of firecrackers and forced him to set them off.

When the explosives began popping, Xiaobing reportedly fell to the floor in a seizure and began foaming at the mouth.

A hospital exam found the boy suffers from a mild form of epilepsy. Doctors advised against the use of bright, flashing lights to "toughen him up."

(Sohu.com)

Gov May Abolish Underage Prostitution Ban

The country's top legislature is discussing the possibility of decriminalizing underage prostitution. But before creepy "sexpats" get the wrong idea, this is not a move to turn China into a pedophile's paradise.

Chinese law currently suffers from an overlap in its handling of rape and underage prostitution. The crimes carry very different sentences and can put the reputations of young girls at risk.

If a man sexually assaults an underage girl and is charged with soliciting, the girl can end up being publicly recorded as a prostitute, Sun Xiaomei of the All-China Women's Federation said.

The move to lift the ban on underage prostitution may force all instances of sex with minors to be prosecuted as assault.

(Ecns)

Private Eyes on the Edge of the Law

BY YANG XIN

China's multitude of underground private detectives are getting more exposure thanks to the story of Zhang Yufen, China's first and only female private detective.

When Zhang's husband finally confessed to being unfaithful and left her to live with his mistress, Zhang channeled her pain and anger into a determination to protect other wronged wives. Over the years, thousands of women have come to her seeking the evidence needed to out their husbands as cheats.

And to force them to pay monetary compensation.

Zhang's skill in investigating corrupt officials' affairs has earned her plenty of attention. In 2009, the wife of a senior railway official reached out to Zhang when she suspected her husband was having affairs with 17 other women.

But Zhang's industry is not entirely legal. In 1993, the Ministry of Public Security issued its Circular on the Prohibition of the Establishment of Non-governmental Organizations in the Nature of a "Private Detecting Agency."

In effect, the law strictly prohibits all non-governmental investigation.

Space to Survive

While banned by the law, the demand for private detectives is exploding: a search for "private detective company" on Baidu reveals more than 4.5 million results.

According to a report by the *Beijing Youth Daily* last August, there are more than 3,700 institutions specialized in private detective work in China and more than 20,000 practicing investigators.

Most of the businesses register as "business consulting firms" or "information consulting firms" to get government approval. Few exist as brick-and-mortar offices, preferring instead to operate the shadowy regions of QQ favored by unlicensed moneychangers and prostitutes.

Wang Tao works for a Chongqing-based private eye. He said that companies dealing with private detective



CFP Photos



Private detectives have been outside the law since the business began in 1992.

Photo by Legal Weekly
Zhang Yufen, China's first female detective

work normally avoid drawing attention. Websites and ads are the only ways for them to promote their business.

Even the basic process of investigation puts many investigators at risk.

"Private detectives do not have the right to collect evidence that can be used in criminal lawsuits. But in civil law-

tives could easily find their hard-won evidence thrown out of court or themselves in the hot seat.

In June 2010, the Beijing Chaoyang People's Court heard a case involving dozens of private detectives who were prosecuted under charges of illegal business operation and illegally accessing citizens' personal information.

So far, the Beijing Police have cracked down on 20 illegal investigative agencies. Some stand accused of using private materials to blackmail customers. Others employ hatchet men to collect evidence or use fake police uniforms to trick their targets.

A Legal Aide

A recent poll by Tencent found that 87 percent of netizens said that private detective work should be legalized.

"In some cases, a lawsuit means complicated procedures and excessive costs. Private eyes may collect more persuasive evidences at a lower cost. They not only provide services to the prosecutors but also alleviate pressure on public security forces," said Liu Wenzhao, a social commentator.

Liu's statement best explains why many foreign countries have a complex legal system but leave space for private detective agencies.

But the grey nature of China's civil investigation industry leaves it open to other problems.

"Practitioners often lack professional training and are of varying quality," said He Jiahong, law professor of Renmin University of China. "Their investigative behavior follows no rules or regulations, which occasionally results in them trampling all over their targets' rights."

But He said private eyes in China have a bright future.

"We need to acknowledge their legal status to lead them from operating underground to working in public where they can be regulated. But that will need a better legal and regulatory system than we have today," He said.

Until then, it may be up to the industry's own self-discipline. ■



Photo by CFP

E-commerce Giant Extends its Tentacles into Media

BY LI RUIQI

Last June, Alibaba bought a 68 percent stake in Culture China, a Hong Kong media company that has since been renamed Ali Picture. Last week, it became the second biggest shareholder of Enlight Media with its investment of 2.4 billion yuan.

It may be hard to understand why the world's largest e-commerce company is buying up traditional media, but Wei Min, a shareholder at Ali Picture, said it's about marketing.

"More than 100 million people view Taobao.com every day but only 20 million actually buy something. I want the other 80 million to become real customers too," Jack Ma said.

Film and television may be the ideal products to convert those shoppers.

More Than Movies

Only six months after it was established, Ali Picture has two successful films: *Breakup Buddies*, the first domestic film to break 110 million yuan in a single day at the box office, and *Dearest*, a thought-provoking tear-jerker.

This year, the company has five more films in the pipeline being developed by Wong Kar Wai, Stephen Chow, Peter Chan and Giddens Ko. Each is greenlit for an investment of 50 million yuan.

Zhang Qiang, president of Ali Picture, said the company plans to invest in 8 to 10 films in the next two years with a focus on movies that will use high technology.

Aside from retaining famous directors to ensure box office returns, the company is also buying the distribution rights to other films. Alibaba's rights to overseas distribu-



Photo by Chinnet.com

tion of *Wolf Totem* helped push its box office take to 600 million in the last two weeks.

The company has also bought film adaption rights to the popular *Princess Pearl* TV series. "Taobao.com took a decade to occupy the PC and three years to sweep mobile screens. Now it's trying to sell its products on TV," said economic analyst Liu Jingyang.

E-commerce on TV

When the State Administration of Radio Film and Television began to restrict TV advertisements in January 2014, Ali Picture moved to abandon the business that accounts for 35 percent of its revenue and seek a new solution in popular TV series.

In January 2015, T-mall cooperated with SMG to test its TV-to-online abilities in the popular romance *Silent Separation*. The shirts of the protagonists became a new selling point that appealed to a number of

consumers. Although the test was not that profitable, Ali managed to push its e-commerce gene onto the home screen.

In February, Ali Picture signed a contract with Shenzhen Satellite Television and Guangdong Satellite Television to produce an e-commerce TV series. As the producer, Ali will tailor the plots and make specific promotions plans to match.

"For example, if the protagonists go to Maldives in this episode, we will probably promote their long dresses and swimsuits on Taobao.com or some tour packages to the island," Zhang Qiang said.

Wu Chunyong, senior editor of the website Ronghe, said TV-to-online commerce almost bridges the Internet with cable networks. Users can choose a game or video on their screen and pay by scanning a QR code.

"Many middle-aged shoppers are not accustomed to shopping on their smartphones. With this technology, they

could become a major force in online sales," Wu said.

Alibaba is also counting on TV shopping to become a group activity. Any TV screen may have two to three times more potential shoppers than a single PC or mobile terminal. Group discussion and the group-shopping atmosphere might psychologically encourage viewers to make a purchase.

Ali Film and Television is also developing related apps to let viewers be more involved in the content creation process. Its Yuelabao is a fundraising app that allows people to fund interesting movies with a minimum contribution of 100 yuan. Users can also fund or reserve mobile games and TV series that come to Yulebao.

"It's similar to the financial product Yu'ebao. This lets us quickly ascertain audience interest and increase user viscosity," president Zhang Qiang said to Tencent News on March 4. The company said its first six programs including *Wolf Totem*, *Little Times 4* and an SNS game called *Magic College* raised 73 million yuan through Yulebao. With 1 million in user funds, *Little Times 4* became the most popular film followed by the romance *Somewhere Only We Know* by Xu Jinglei.

Xiao Zhixi, a backer of *Somewhere Only We Know*, said she was excited when the movie's box office broke 200 million. "For the first time, that number finally had some relation to me. I invested a film and it did well," Xiao said.

For Alibaba, the challenge is to adapt and find more ways to make shopping an essential part of consumers' lives. "Now we are ubiquitous. We want to be essential and irreplaceable," Jack Ma said. ■

Academic Integrity a Forgotten Lesson in China's Higher Ed

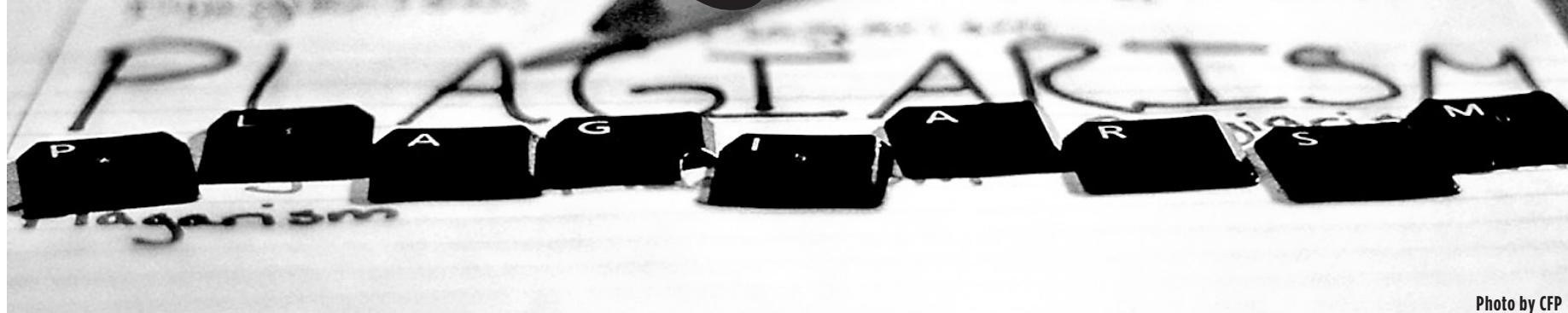


Photo by CFP

BY YANG XIN

Yu Yanru, a former doctoral student at Peking University and researcher at the Chinese Academy of Science, made headlines in 2014 when investigators learned that one of her dissertations was wholly copied from foreign sources.

On August 17, the *Chinese Journal of Journalism and Communication* issued an official statement on its website to accuse Yu of plagiarism.

Although Yu had graduated days before the dissertation went to print, mounting public pressure forced Peking University to intervene. The school announced it would revoke Yu's doctoral degree on January 9, making her China's first person to lose a degree due to academic misconduct.

But in her latest interview with the *Legal Evening News*, Yu said the school's investigation misrepresented her wrongdoing and that the article published in *Chinese Journal of Journalism and Communication* was the only one she ever stole.

On March 1, Yu issued a statement through the media that she opposed the school's decision and that she had lodged a formal complaint.

Selective Punishment

Plagiarism is hardly unusual in East Asian academia.

Less than a year ago, the former stem-cell biologist and researcher of Japanese Riken Institute Haruko Obokata was accused of fabricating data and manipulating images in two of her academic papers published in the scientific journal *Nature* in January 2014.

It only took two months before the Riken Institute released its report that found Obokata had engaged in research misconduct.

Last October, Waseda University pulled Obokata's doctoral degree stating that it found widespread plagiarism in her dissertations.

The Riken Institute held a press release in February to announce its punishment. In addition to firing Obokata, it also filed a lawsuit seeking repayment of the research expenses. The director of Obokata's department also received a condemnation notice, and the president of Riken



Obokata's fall showed Japanese academia's determination to root out plagiarism.

Institute will be forced to take responsibility and resign.

In contrast, Yu Yanru is the only figure being held accountable in China.

That might explain why the public has been sympathetic toward Yu instead of criticizing her after Peking University's announcement. In a poll, more than 60 percent of respondents said the university's punishment was "too harsh."

"Peking University's decision was made under a specific situation. Without high pressure from media and the public, it's hard to say whether Yu would have received such a severe punishment," said Liu Hailong, a member of the panel at the *Chinese Journal of Journalism and Communication* who pointed out Yu's plagiarism.

"Frankly speaking, in an academic circle where cheating and plagiarism have become the norm, people have are not mistaken to think Yu is taking the place of bigger fish hiding beneath the surface," said Gu Zexu, a lawyer. "That's why the public is so tolerant in Yu's case. They believe that there are more people who should be held responsible than are escaping punishment for unknown reasons."

Nearly 10 percent said Yu's tutors at the school should be held accountable.

"In most foreign universities, tutors are jointly responsible when plagiarism happens. A process should be set up to regulate tutors during the process," said Chen Pengfu, a professor at Nankai University.

Legal Loopholes

"Most Chinese schools use an academic board to fight academic fraud within the university system. But the current situation is that academic boards tend to turn a blind eye on their students' misconduct," said Xu Yunfang, an education commentator.

To the ears of Chinese bureaucrats, the logic is infallible: exposing their own academic scandals "could damage the schools' reputations."

An editorial in the *China Education News Network* suggested that a third-party supervisory institution could be employed to prevent schools from shielding their students.

The law is also strangely absent in the fight against plagiarism. China's Copyright Law, which functions as the legal basis for protecting authors' intellectual property, has no specific provisions on the punitive measures that apply to academic fraud.

It remains under debate whether academic fraud should even be regarded as criminal offence.

Never Educated

Discussion about plagiarism is suspiciously absent from Chinese universities and colleges. Few students ever learn what is considered plagiarism or why it is important to do one's own work.

"The first class I had when studying abroad went into great detail about the severe penalties you face if you plagiarize. Many foreign universities have lectures and classes that discuss plagiarism and explain the difference between plagiarism and quotation for incoming freshmen," said a student who did not wish to be named.

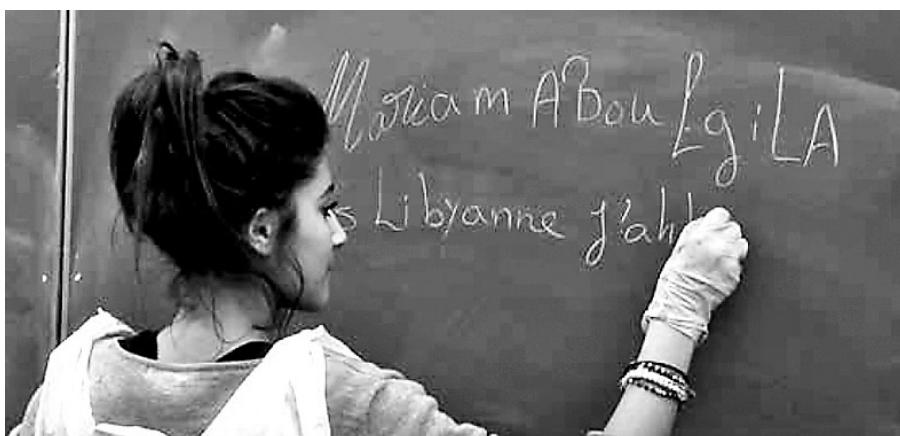
Even the greater topic of academic integrity is thrown by the wayside in Chinese schools.

"General statements related to academic integrity can be found in our post graduate training program, but it's just dropped in one time and never reiterated," said a post-graduate student at Peking University surnamed Luo.

"I think universities should make academic integrity a bigger part of the curriculum. Students have to be taught to always be on alert. It would also be better if our tutors could offer more effective guidance when it's time to write our thesis," said a Peking University student surnamed Ma. ■



Photo by Legal Evening News



Month-Long Journey Explores the Beauty of French

BY YANG XIN

The Francophonie Festival is celebrating its 20th anniversary with more than 100 events scheduled from March 10 to 30 in Beijing, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shanghai, Shenyang and Wuhan and other Chinese cities.

Designed to emphasize the beauty of French language and culture, the events span a broad range of domains including music, fashion, sports, literature and science, as well as the visual and culinary arts.

The festival is a channel for exploring cultural and linguistic diversity and the values embodied by Francophonie. It's a time for visitors to open up and share in the cultures of French-speaking countries and the French language in particular.

Major events at this year's cultural program include French Film Encounters, Mars en Folie, Francophonie Fashion Show, Film Project for

the Youngest and book talks with two French writers.

French Film Encounters brings 20 films by 20 French-speaking countries to 18 Chinese cities. The event includes a meet-and-greet with two French-language film directors Dominique Othenin-Girard and Benoit Mariage. Most of the program's films are being screened in China for the first time.

Mars en Folie will organize 28 concerts in 12 cities. Four French-language bands from Quebec, Switzerland, Belgium and France will present their best live performances to Chinese music lovers.

The Francophonie Fashion Show is a project that supports education and training related to the French language. As one spotlight of this year's festival, the fashion show will be launched on March 20, International French Day.

Film Project for the Youngest is a collaboration between the Embassies of Switzerland, France, the Wallonia-Brussels Delegation, the Youth Offices and the Beijing Film Academy. Two young film industry professionals from each of the participating Francophone countries will work with six young Chinese film industry professionals to produce a documentary on a given, universal theme with ties to China.

Organized at the Institut Francais of Beijing, Literary Encounters will bring prestigious writers Yasmina Khadra and Tahar Ben Jelloun to China for a series of conferences and workshops.

The Francophonie Festival will also include culinary events such as wine tastings and a pastry workshop, fencing meets, an immersive visual and sound installation, exhibits and conferences related to Francophone culture and entertainment.

"This annual cultural feast will help French-speaking countries to spread the profound cultural implications and diversity of French language," said Guy Saint-Jacques, the Canadian Ambassador to China.

Francophonie Festival functions as a great way to learn about other cultures and explore the creative artistry of the many countries that speak French. Since 2001, more than 40 countries have collaborated each year to present an array of experiences rooted in Francophone culture. ■

Multiracial Families Behind the Lens

BY YANG XIN

CYJO, an American visual artist of Korean ancestry, is sharing an exhibition of family portraits and interviews in New York City and Beijing that captures the experience of 19 families with children of mixed ancestry.

The artist's exploration of identity and its relationship to migration and culture began in 2004 and continued through this series of compelling portraits. Her work analyzes how culture, life experience, tradition and modernity shape individual and collective identity.

In her most recent pieces, she continues to explore cultural nuances, connective elements and contradicting perspectives.

For local viewers, Mixed Blood is a door into the lives of families who must

consciously shape their children's identity through tradition, modernization, citizenship and culture.

As the population of multiracial people increases across the world, visual depictions of such individuals and families are gaining attention.

"For some, these portraits will allow us to form more deliberate opinions when interacting with people who don't share their exact backgrounds. For others, it will allow us to understand the inevitable growth of the individual and culture within our globalized world," CYJO said.

The families in Mixed Blood represent the unprecedented diversity of human relationships and cultural blending in the 21st century, said Nik

Apostolides, associate director of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

"At the same time, it suggests the evolving role of individuals and families in defining their own unique identities and shaping their own values in ways that use race and ethnicity as a partial frame," Apostolides said.

"I feel a strong connection to the portraits and narratives in CYJO's Mixed Blood. They are at once familiar and provocative," said Maya Soetoro-Ng, half-sister of US President Barack Obama. "They highlight the borrowing, plucking, reshaping, and discarding that we do in fixing our identities at any given time, in a particular space, and for a particular purpose."

The exhibition is sponsored by the



US Embassy in Beijing and hosted by Three Shadows Art Centre. It has already made appearances in Chengdu, Dalian and Shanghai. ■

Three Shadows Art Centre

● March 7 – April 3

▲ 155A Caochangdi, Chaoyang

◆ Free



Jenny Lou's Foreign Residents' Favorite Supermarket Chain

Jenny Lou's is a supermarket chain mainly dealing in imported foods. It has six locations throughout the city in areas with a dense foreign population. More than 70 percent of the chain's products come from abroad with the majority from Italy, Australia, the US and Canada.

Each of the chain's locations has specialty goods sections. At Jenny Lou's Chaoyang Park branch, this is a Red Wine Zone with bottles brought in from famous red wine regions such as Bordeaux, France. Many of the bottles are significantly cheaper than those found at other Chinese retailers with the most expensive priced less than 1,000 yuan.

"During our peak seasons we sell more than 50,000 yuan of wine per month," said a sales associate sur-



named Li.

Jenny Lou's was founded in 1989 by Lu Xudong, Wang Jianping and Wang Jianying. The shop began as a small store selling fresh produce. But when the capital began to attract more foreigners, Jenny Lou's diversified and opened a new chain store in 1995 that sold produce, imported foods and groceries.

Since then, Jenny Lou's has grown to become the city's most successful retailer of imported foods. It is well known by the city's foreign and business communities as the only place to find rare spices and many of the same products and brands foreigners enjoyed in their home countries.

Jenny Lou's branding has helped it hang on to its leading position in Beijing's highly competitive imported foods market.

In March 2003, Jenny Lou's two managers were invited by the US Department of Agriculture and Trade Office in Shanghai to visit several large supermarket chains in the country. Since then, other retail markets from the EU and US have invited Jenny Lou's managers to come and visit.

Since its establishment, Jenny Lou's has strived to offer the best food to consumers. It adheres to the principles of consistency, good faith, pragmatism and fairness to both suppliers and consumers.

Jenny Lou's operating philosophy allows it to offer delicious foreign foods, breads, fast foods and other services through its stores and via home delivery. Its team is constantly looking to develop further and bring more green and healthy foods to local and foreign residents. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)

BEIJING TODAY

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